

Message Text

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46

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-04 INR-05

LAB-01 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 AID-05 NIC-01 AGR-05

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /082 W

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R 062224Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8512

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 4754

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, HO

SUBJECT: COMMUNIST ACTION IN UNITED BRANDS UNION (SITRATERCO)

BEGIN SUMMARY: SITRATERCO UNION OFFICIAL HAS INFORMED LABOFF THAT DURING WEEK OF OCOTBER 28 COMMUNISTS IN THE UNION TRIED TO FORCE EXPULSION OF CURRENT EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND THE CALLING OF AN EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESS. END SUMMARY.

1. EDILBERTO MARTINEZ, RECORDING SECRETARY OF SITRATERCO (UNITED BRANDS UNION) INFORMED LABOFF NOVEMBER 5 THAT SITRATERCO LOCAL UNIONS (SECCIONALES) IN LA LIMA AND EL PROGRESO FORMALLY PETITIONED UNION LEADERSHIP TO CALL AN EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESS TO ELECT NEW UNION LEADERSHIP TO DEAL WITH CURRENT CRISIS CAUSED BY HURRINCANE FIFI. ACCORDING TO MARTINEZ BOTH SECCIONALES ARE COMMUNIST CONTROLLED. THE PURPOSE OF THE MOVE WAS OBVIOUSLY
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TO EXPEL CURRENT LEADERSHIP, PARTICULARLY OSCAR GALE AND

SEC GEN OBDULIO CACERES.

2. UNION STATUTES DO NOT PERMIT CALLING OF EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESSES FOR ELECTION OF NEW LEADERSHIP. HOWEVER, CACERES DID CALL A MEETING OF THE CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL WHICH IS COMPOSED OF EIGHT MEMBERS OF EVERY SECCIONAL. THE COUNCIL REINFORCED THE INTENT OF UNION STATUTES THAT UNION OFFICIALS ELECTED BY THE CONGRESS COULD BE EXPELLED ONLY FOR SPECIFIC INFRACTIONS SUPPORTED BY SPECIFIC PROOFS. THE MOVE BY THE REPRESENTATIVES FROM EL PROGRESO AND LA LIMA WAS DECLARED OUT OF ORDER.

3. MARTINEZ SAYS THAT COMMUNIST ACTION AGAINST THE LEADERSHIP SINCE HURRICANE FIFI HAS BEEN FAIRLY CONSTANT BUT CAN STILL BE HANDLED. OBDULIO CACERES IS PARTICULARLY ANNOYED THAT HE IS FORCED TO USE VALUABLE TIME DURING A CRUCIAL PERIOD TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST COMMUNIST SNIPING. SANCHEZ

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TAGS: PINT, ELAB, HO
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